

The New Normal Isn't Normal At All



I attended our local Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting yesterday. I don't know if you can tell from the photo above but the guest speaker was the Sheriff of Lake County who introduced us to a leading expert on active killer situations. He spoke to us on our country's long history regarding mass attacks and school massacres. Surprisingly, it is nothing new. It just feels like it is. That doesn't make me feel any better.

My generation never practiced for terrorist attacks or school shootings. It simply wasn't on our radar. We were an in-between generation. Too late for the Cold War and too early for domestic terrorism. In my day, the only defense training

we received was a twice a year fire drill which hardly any of us took seriously. We got up, marched down the hallways in a straight single-file line until we were outside and then our nature took over and we became kids at recess.

The generation before me wasn't as lucky. They were taught the duck and cover maneuver to "protect" themselves during nuclear attacks.



Speaking frankly, that always seemed a little silly to me. My school desk was unable to protect me from the spitballs lobbed from David Cook seated a row behind me... I somehow think it would not have been an effective deterrent to an H-bomb lobbed from a Russian sub.

These days, whole classrooms are being taught the Run, Hide, Fight response. Instead of teaching our children to be victims (aka Duck and Cover), they are being taught how to take action to try to avoid being victims. It is great training but in my opinion, it is something that we, as a society, should be ashamed by the fact that it even has to be part of the curriculum. Not that it isn't needed... it is. And that is why we should be ashamed.

Our culture is what it is and there are so many moving parts to it that it is difficult to effect overall change except in gradual steps. But that doesn't mean that we shouldn't make the attempt. It took a while for us to get to the sad and

unfortunate place that we are... and it will take a while to move us back to where we should be. But every step we take in that direction will be worth the effort. There is nothing normal about this "new normal" in which we find ourselves.

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